In the Specification:

At page 4, lines 8, 26, 30, 36 and page 5, lines 7, please amend the specification as follows.

HBA device driver 110 includes a common transport (CT) pass-through 112, an extended link service (ELS) pass-through 114 and a small computer system interface (SCSI) protocol driver 116. The CT pass-through 112 and the ELS pass-through 114 are coupled to the management application agents 108 that provides the CT protocol and ELS protocol communications functions. The SCSI protocol driver 116 is coupled to the host operating system 108 for conventional flow control of data. HBA firmware 118 and HBA hardware ~~120~~ 119 is coupled between the HBA device driver 110 and a storage area network (SAN) 120. SAN 120 includes a fibre channel (FC) fabric and link services 122. The CT pass-through 112 and the ELS pass-through 114 are binary pass-throughs that each takes applied commands and passes the received commands to the SAN 120. CT operations from the management application agents 108 to the FC fabric and link services 122 are indicated by dotted lines. ELS operations from the management application agents 108 to the FC fabric and link services 122 are indicated by dashed lines. A SCSI storage device 124 is shown associated with the SAN cloud 120. FC fabric and link services 122 include multiple switches and hubs for connection of a plurality of FC devices 126 (one shown). FC fabric and link services 122 receive commands from the HBA firmware 118, <u>HBA hardware</u> ~~120~~ <u>119</u> and sends data back via the HBA firmware 118, <u>HBA hardware</u> ~~120~~ <u>119</u>.